

IN THE CLAIMS

This listing of claims will replace all prior versions, and listings, of claims in the application. An identifier indicating the status of each claim is provided.

Listing of Claims:

1. (Currently Amended) An information playback apparatus comprising:
data playback means for playing back data from a disc recording medium and outputting
playback data;

bit error correction means for correcting a bit error generated in said playback data; and
a buffer memory for temporarily storing data output by said error correction means and
outputting stored data to later-stage processing,

wherein the error correction means substitutes recognizable dummy data ~~used as a~~
~~substitute for said playback data containing a bit error difficult to correct is output to said later-~~
~~stage processing when said playback data is detected by said error correction means~~ detects a bit
error difficult to correct.

2. (Original) The information playback apparatus according to claim 1, wherein
recognizable dummy data used as a substitute for said playback data containing a bit error
difficult to correct is output to said later-stage processing in case said playback data is detected
by said error correction means by executing the steps of:

storing said dummy data in said buffer memory on the basis of a result of error correction
processing carried out by said error correction means; and

sequentially outputting data stored in said buffer memory in accordance with a predetermined order.

3. (Original) The information playback apparatus according to claim 1, wherein data stored in said buffer memory is output in accordance with a limitation requested by said later-stage processing and when retry processing carried out makes it possible to output playback data corresponding to said dummy data in accordance with said limitation, said retry processing is carried out to reproduce said playback data corresponding to said dummy data and said playback data is output in place of said dummy data.

4. (Original) The information playback apparatus according to claim 3, wherein said limitation requested by said later-stage processing is a request for a transfer of data in a predetermined order within a predetermined time and said request is made by an external apparatus in a command specifying an operation to play back said data.

5. (Original) The information playback apparatus according to claim 3, wherein said limitation requested by said later-stage processing is a request for a transfer of data stored in said buffer memory and said request is made by an external apparatus after a command specifying an operation to play back said data.

6. (Currently Amended) An information playback apparatus comprising:
data playback means for playing back data from a disc recording medium and outputting playback data; and

a buffer memory for temporarily storing said playback data to be output to later-stage processing,

wherein recognizable dummy ~~data used as a substitute~~ substituted for said playback data recorded in a defective sector of said disc recording medium is output to said later-stage processing as a result of an access to said defective sector.

7. (Original) The information playback apparatus according to claim 6, wherein recognizable dummy data used as a substitute for said playback data recorded in said defective sector is output to said later-stage processing by executing the steps of:

storing said dummy data in said buffer memory as a result of an access to said defective sector; and

sequentially outputting data stored in said buffer memory in accordance with a predetermined order.

8. (Original) The information playback apparatus according to claim 6, wherein data stored in said buffer memory is output in accordance with a limitation requested by said later-stage processing and when alternate processing carried out makes it possible to output playback data corresponding to said dummy data in accordance with said limitation, said alternate processing is carried out to reproduce said playback data and said playback data is output in place of said dummy data.

9. (Original) The information playback apparatus according to claim 8, wherein said limitation requested by said later-stage processing is a request for a transfer of data in a

predetermined order within a predetermined time and said request is made by an external apparatus in a command specifying an operation to play back said data.

10. (Original) The information playback apparatus according to claim 8, wherein said limitation requested by said later-stage processing is a request for a transfer of data stored in said buffer memory and said request is made by an external apparatus after a command specifying an operation to play back said data.

11. (Currently Amended) An information playback method for playing back data from a disc recording medium and outputting playback data, said information playback method comprising the steps of:

correcting a bit error generated in said playback data reproduced from said disc recording medium;

temporarily storing data with said error corrected in a buffer memory;

outputting said data stored in said buffer memory to later-stage processing; and

outputting recognizable dummy data ~~used as a substitute for~~ said playback data ~~containing a bit error difficult to correct is output to~~ said later-stage processing when a bit error difficult to correct ~~said playback data is detected in~~ said step of correcting a bit error generated in said playback data.

12. (Currently Amended) An information playback method for playing back data from a disc recording medium and outputting playback data, said information playback method comprising the steps of:

temporarily storing said playback data reproduced from said disc recording medium in a buffer ~~memory~~ memory;

outputting said playback data stored in said buffer memory to later-stage processing; and
~~outputting substituting~~ recognizable dummy data ~~used as a substitute~~ for said playback data to said later-stage processing as a result of an access to ~~said a~~ defective sector of the disc recording medium.

13. (Currently Amended) ~~An information recording~~ A computer-readable
medium storing a computer program to perform ~~for recording~~ an information playback method
for playing back data from a disc recording medium and outputting playback data, the method
comprising wherein said information playback method comprises the steps of:

correcting a bit error generated in said playback data reproduced from said disc recording
medium;

temporarily storing data with said error corrected in a buffer memory;
outputting said data stored in said buffer memory to later-stage processing; and
outputting recognizable dummy data ~~used as a substitute~~ for said playback data
~~containing a bit error difficult to correct~~ is output to said later-stage processing when a bit error
difficult to correct ~~said playback data~~ is detected in said step of correcting a bit error generated in
said playback data.

14. (Currently Amended) ~~An information recording~~ A computer-readable
medium storing a computer program to perform ~~for recording~~ an information playback method

for playing back data from a disc recording medium and outputting playback data, the method comprising wherein said information playback method comprises the steps of:

temporarily storing said playback data reproduced from said disc recording medium in a buffer memory;

outputting said data stored in said memory to later-stage processing; and

~~outputting substituting~~ recognizable dummy data ~~used as a substitute for~~ said playback data to said later-stage processing as a result of an access to ~~said a~~ defective sector of the disc recording medium.